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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [RS](#) [BU](#)  
SUBJECT: BULGARIA: MFA DESCRIBES "NEGATIVE" RUSSIAN  
ACTIONS IN THE BALKANS/BLACK SEA REGIONS

REF: STATE 71326

Classified By: DCM SUSAN SUTTON FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) and (D).

(C) We delivered reftel points on Russia to the Bulgarian MFA's Director of Europe III, Krassimir Kostov on July 15. Kostov said that Bulgaria welcomes the Obama Administration's new constructive approach to U.S.-Russia relations, but hopes that the administration will review all aspects of the relationship. He told us that Bulgaria and other Eastern European NATO allies appreciate the United States' strong support of the territorial integrity of Ukraine and Georgia and the U.S.-European security relationship. Kostov added that he has concerns about Russia's "increasing" negative actions in the Balkans/Black Sea Regions. He also said Bulgaria is "concerned" about Russia's attempts to join the WTO as a customs union with Belarus and Kazakhstan.

(C) Kostov added that his directorate is preparing a paper for the new Bulgarian government on Bulgaria-Russia and Bulgaria-Caucuses/Central Asia relations, noting that there were many "discrepancies" between Bulgaria's responsibilities as an EU and NATO member and the former Socialist-led coalition government's approach to relations with Russia. He also noted President Parvanov would visit Turkmenistan at the end of August.

McEldowney